



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**TENNESSEE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
RECORDS
1902-1964**

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INTRODUCTION

The archives of the Tennessee Library Association were donated to the Manuscript Division of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The materials in this finding aid measure over 13 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Tennessee Library Association may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Tennessee Library Association was organized in Nashville on May 29, 1902, chiefly by members of the Nashville Public Library staff and the Nashville Library Club, in order to promote library interests in the state. The records of the Tennessee Library Association were deposited in the Tennessee State Library and Archives and a Historian was appointed for their care and safe-keeping in 1957.

The archives at present occupy over 13 linear feet of shelf space and contain approximately 9,000 items. Material is added as released from current use by association officers, sections, committees, representatives, and others.

Although some holdings date from the early period, the bulk of the material is for the years since 1940. The records comprise, for the most part, correspondence, particularly that of the President; proceedings of the annual meetings, which have been held more or less regularly since 1905; programs, the earliest in the files being for the 1905 meeting; clippings; accounts, bills, and receipts; and a file of the *Tennessee Librarian* and four earlier official journal titles.

The membership has grown from 41 in 1905 to 950 on April 11, 1964, and the association archives reflect both growth and diversity in types of library interests in the state (e.g., the development of the Trustees and Friends of Libraries Section from citizen library activity, the establishment of a Special Libraries Section). *The Tennessee Library Association's First Fifty Years, 1902-1951*, a thesis (microfilm copy of which is in the archives) by Ambrose Easterly for the Peabody Library School was written (1956) in part with the use of the records.

The TLA Historian's manual contains a list of the subject headings used for filing materials and serves as a guide to contents of the association archives.

The records are in seventeen boxes, and no container lists have been made.